04/20/2005 FMETEKI1 00000028 501047 10699805

Serial No.: 10/699,605

hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 4/18/05 Sig.: Mayrie Seguato Marjorte Scariati

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT : Savino S. Camporeale et al.

SERIAL NO. : 10/699,605

TITLE : Hermetically Sealed Optical Fiber Ferrule Assembly Supporting

Multiple Optical Fibers

FILED : 10/31/2003

EXAMINER: Khiem M. Nguyen

GROUP ART : 2839

CONFIRMATION NO.: 9950

ATTY DOCKET: 9005/21

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. BOX 1450 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a), AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF DRAWING CHANGES

Applicants hereby petition the Assistant Commissioner to grant a two (2) month extension of time, up to and including Monday, April 18, 2005, in which to respond to the Office Action dated November 17, 2004 in the above-identified application. The extension fee in the amount of \$225.00 may be charged to deposit account No. 50-1047. In addition, any deficiencies may be charged to deposit account No. 50-1047.

In response to the Office Action dated November 17, 2004, the period therefore having been extended by a Petition therefore and payment of the extension fee, kindly amend the above-identified application as follows:

Serial No.: 10/699,605

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF DRAWING CHANGES:

IN THE DRAWINGS

In response to the Examiner's objections to the Drawings noted on Page 2 of the Office Action, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner's approval of the following proposed changes to Figure 3. For the Examiner's convenience, replacement (formal) drawing sheets 1/2 and 2/2 are enclosed, as well as a marked-up copy of Fig 3 indicating the desired changes in red.

The specific changes made include redrawing of the lead line from reference numbers 24₁ and 24₂ to more clearly show that these reference numbers represent the openings, not the fibers 10. Also, clarification is made to indicate that in addition to adhesive 26, there is solder 28 attaching fibers to the ferrule 20 at the rightmost opening of the apertures 24₁ and 24₂. The addition of reference number 28 to the specification is made in the Amendment that follows.

An indication of the Examiner's approval of the proposed changes is respectfully requested in the next Patent Office communication. Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite consideration of this Request or of the application at large, request is made that the Examiner telephone the Applicants' attorney at (908) 518-7700 in order that any outstanding issues be resolved.

2